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**Pre-K Program Experience for Salary Purposes**

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**The Background:**

Until 1996 there was no teacher certification that included pre-kindergarten other than special education. With the adoption of the PK-3 and PK-4 licenses and the implementation of the pilot preschool program, there are certified preschool teachers who are teaching in preschools which conform to all the rules and regulations established by the SBE for a Category I School. These teachers, however, have not been able to use their years of teaching service for either licensure advancement or salary purposes even though these teachers have been held to the same employment standards as K-12 teachers. Including the state-funded Pre-K programs in the rule will correct these inequities and allow years of experience to be recorded in the Personnel Information Reporting System when these teachers shift to the public education sector.

**The Recommendation:**

The Department of Education recommends including experience in state-funded Pre-K programs for salary determinations on final reading. The SBE staff concurs with this recommendation.

### **Pre-K Experience for Salary Purposes**

Part 1 of subparagraph (a) of paragraph (3) of Rule 0520-1-2-.02 Salary Schedules is amended by deleting the part in its entirety and substituting instead the following language so that as amended the part shall read as follows:

1. Verified administrative, supervisory and teaching experience in public schools or in private schools approved by the recognized accrediting agencies or approved by the Tennessee Department of Education or any Pre-K program funded by the Tennessee Department of Education.